

01.9
74
d
84
2

HOUSE STUDY GROUP • TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78769
(512) 475-6011

JAN 9 1984

LIBRARY

CONTROL STATION

TEXAS 78711

Bruce Gibson
Ernestine Glossbrenner
Anita Hill

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Juan Hinojosa
Jim McWilliams
Bill Messer

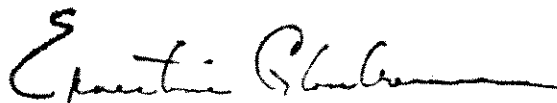
Al Price
Jim Rudd
Ed Watson

HOUSE STUDY GROUP

daily floor report

Wednesday, January 9, 1984
The House convenes at 10 a.m.

Today the House is expected to consider the Housekeeping Resolution and House Rules for the 69th legislative session. Copies of the Housekeeping Resolution and House Rules being proposed by Speaker Gib Lewis were distributed to members yesterday morning. Changes in the Housekeeping Resolution are described starting on Page 1 of this report. A discussion of the proposed rules begins on Page 4.



Ernestine Glossbrenner
Chair

Proposed House Rules

Committee Changes

The number of committees would expand from 33 to 34. The Regions, Compacts, and Districts Committee would be eliminated and its jurisdiction over redistricting would not be transferred to any other committee. Two new committees would be created.

The Government Organization Committee, eliminated in 1983, would be restored, with jurisdiction over sunset legislation and studies of the efficient and economical operation of government. This committee would have no budget-and-oversight subcommittee.

A new Science and Technology Committee would have jurisdiction over areas such as telecommunications, electronic business technology, and automated data processing. It would consider the role of government in cooperating with the scientific and technological community.

Jurisdiction over several of the smaller state agencies would be transferred among the committees. For example, the Law Enforcement Committee would take from the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee jurisdiction over the Texas Adult Probation Commission, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, and the Texas Youth Commission. (However, the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee would assume exclusive jurisdiction over the Criminal Justice Policy Council.)

The memberships of the committees on County Affairs, State Affairs, Urban Affairs, and Ways and Means would each be reduced from 15 to 13.

The chair of the State Affairs Committee would no longer be barred from serving on another substantive committee. Only the Appropriations Committee chair would remain under that restriction.

Members would no longer be barred from serving on more than one procedural committee (Calendars, Local and Consent Calendars, House Administration, Rules and Resolutions, and General Investigating.)

The total number of "slots" on substantive committees would be 297--meaning 148 members would each serve on two substantive committees ($148 \times 2 = 296$), while one other member (the Appropriations Committee chair) would serve on only one substantive committee. (The Speaker serves on no committee.) Of the total number of committee places available, 92 would be filled on the basis of seniority, compared to 93 during the 68th session and 110 during the 67th session.

The budget-and-oversight subcommittees would consist of five committee members, rather than a majority of the committee. The Speaker, rather than the committee chair, would appoint the members of the subcommittee. The Speaker would appoint vice-chairs as well as chairs for the budget-and-oversight subcommittees. Unlike the budget-and-oversight chairs, these vice-chairs would not serve on the Appropriations Committee.

Procedural Changes

The preferred-bill system would be eliminated. Under this system members received a preference number by lot and could assign that number to a priority bill. If a bill with a member's preference number was placed on the General State Calendar, it was considered before any other House bill on that calendar, except those with a higher preference number.

A division of the vote on a measure would be more difficult to obtain. Under last session's rules, any one member could demand that a separate vote be taken on each part of a measure that contained many distinct parts (such as the education and tax bills considered during last summer's special session). Under the proposed rules, a majority vote would be required in order to compel such a division of the question. This motion for a division of the question would have to be made before any other motion for a vote on the measure. Instead of requiring a vote on every distinct part, the rule would also give the Speaker explicit authority to divide a question into groups of propositions that are closely related. Unlike the demand for a division under last session's rules, the motion to divide the question would be subject to debate, with one proponent and one opponent each limited to three minutes of debate.

Some procedures concerning the resolutions calendar would be changed. Like a bill on the local and consent calendar, a resolution considered on the resolutions calendar could be contested and thus forced off the calendar. A resolution would be deemed contested if at least five members gave notice of their opposition or if debate on the resolution lasted longer than 10 minutes. The Rules and Resolutions Committee also would be given the authority to determine whether a resolution is not eligible for assignment to the congratulatory and memorial resolutions calendar. If it ruled a resolution ineligible, the resolution would be sent to the Calendars Committee for further action. (Under last session's rules, a questionable resolution would first have to be assigned to the congratulatory and memorial resolutions calendar, then referred by the Speaker to a different calendars committee.)

Resolutions to allow a conference committee to consider matter beyond the scope of the House and Senate versions of a measure would be privileged and thus would not need to be referred to committee. The majority vote required to approve such a resolution would no longer have to be a record vote.

Other Proposed Changes

The chief clerk could amend the caption to conform to the body of engrossed bills and joint resolutions without the prior written approval of the author or sponsor. (See page 10 of the proposed rules.)

The reading clerks would be under the supervision of the sergeant at arms, not of the journal clerk (page 15). Proceedings of the House and of House committees and subcommittees would still be electronic.

n, recorded. Copies of the proceedings would be released under guidelines set by the House Administration Committee. The prior rules required the House Administration Committee, if asked by a member, to supply at cost to that House member a transcript of the proceedings or a copy of the recording of that member's own remarks (pages 56, 89).

A committee report would no longer have to specify whether a bill or resolution proposes new law or amends existing law (page 61).

For measures affecting a public retirement system, prior rules required that before any committee hearing an actuarial analysis be prepared, that the analysis be reviewed by the Legislative Budget Board, and that a statement of review and comment be prepared by the State Pension Review Board. The proposed rules would require that a fiscal note be prepared for the measure prior to any committee hearing, but only the State Pension Review Board, not the LBB, would have to review and comment upon the actuarial analysis. The committee report on the measure would have to include a statement that the measure was forwarded to the State Pension Review Board for an actuarial analysis (pages 61, 65, 67).

Everyone, not just members, would have to be "properly attired" in the House chamber while the House is in session (page 183).

Rule 9 on appropriation bills would include a new statement of purpose. It would say that the standing committees with jurisdiction over state agencies should be involved in the appropriations process and that Rule 9 should be "liberally construed" to further that involvement (page 136).

tor, le, ons The proposed rules would delete a provision in the 68th Legislature's rules that required a resolution authorizing expenditure of money from the general House fund of the Legislature to contain a budget itemizing the maximum amounts authorized. The provision also barred the House Administration Committee from authorizing an expenditure larger than the proposed budget adopted in such a resolution (page 148).